

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

C' 1 **Claim 1** (currently amended): A method for
2 determining a threshold value (O_{\max} , O_{\min} , O_{TR}) serving to
3 limit an output signal of a processing unit into which an
4 input signal has been fed, characterized in that a level
5 of the input signal is determined and that the threshold
6 value (O_{\max} , O_{\min} , O_{TR}) is ~~set~~ controlled as a function of
7 the level of the input signal.

1 **Claim 2** (previously presented): The method as in
2 claim 1, wherein from the said level a mean level (I) is
3 derived on the basis of which the threshold value (O_{\max} ,
4 O_{\min} , O_{TR}) is set.

1 **Claim 3** (previously presented): The method as in
2 claim 2, wherein the threshold value (O_{TR}) is set by a
3 differential amount (TR_{\max}) above the mean level (I) of
4 the input signal.

1 **Claim 4** (currently amended): The method as in claim
2 2, wherein the mean level (I) is derived from the input
3 signal $s(t)$ along the following formula:

4
$$[I = \frac{I}{T} \times \int_0^T |s(t)| \times dt]$$

$$I = \frac{1}{T} \times \int_0^T |s(t)| \times dt$$

5 whereby an averaging function is performed over a
6 time interval T.

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1 **Claim 5** (previously presented): The method as in
2 claim 1, wherein a maximum threshold value (O_{max}) is
3 established.

1 **Claim 6** (previously presented): The method as in
2 claim 5, wherein the maximum threshold value (O_{max}) is so
3 selected as to be equal to an upper comfort level of a
4 hearing-impaired person.

1 **Claim 7** (previously presented): The method as in
2 claim 1, wherein a minimum threshold value (O_{min}) is
3 established.

1 **Claim 8** (previously presented): The method as in
2 claim 7, characterized in that the minimum threshold
3 value (O_{min}) is so selected as to be equal to an output

4 level that results from an input level of about 80 dB and
5 the corresponding amplification at that input level that
6 is produced for a hearing-impaired person.

1 **Claim 9** (previously presented): The method as in
2 claim 3, wherein the differential amount (TR_{max}) is
3 adjusted along a compression ratio for a hearing-impaired
4 person.

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1 **Claim 10** (Original): Application of the method per
2 one of the claims 1 to 9 for operating a hearing aid.

1 **Claim 11** (previously presented): Application of the
2 method per claim 6 for operation of a hearing aid by a
3 hearing-impaired person.

1 **Claim 12** (previously presented): A system for
2 implementing the method per claim 1, characterized in
3 that a processing unit is provided which receives an
4 input signal and which permits within the processing unit
5 the determination of a threshold value (O_{max} , O_{min} , O_{TR}) for
6 the purpose of limiting the output signal, said threshold
7 value (O_{max} , O_{min} , O_{TR}) being adjustable as a function of
8 the level of the input signal.

1 **Claim 17** (previously presented): The system as in
2 claim 16, wherein the maximum threshold value (O_{\max}) can
3 be selected to be equal to an upper comfort level of a
4 hearing-impaired person.

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1 **Claim 18** (previously presented): The system as in
2 claim 12, wherein it permits a minimum threshold value
3 (O_{\min}) to be established.

1 **Claim 19** (previously presented): The system as in
2 claim 18, wherein the minimum threshold value (O_{\min}) can
3 be selected to be equal to a mean amplification value for
4 a hearing-impaired person.

1 **Claim 20** (previously presented): The system as in
2 claim 13, wherein the differential amount (TR_{\max}) can be
3 adjusted corresponding to a compression ratio for a
4 hearing-impaired person.
